

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
SPECIES ASSESSMENT AND LISTING PRIORITY ASSIGNMENT FORM**

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Labordia helleri*

COMMON NAME: Kamakahala

LEAD REGION: Region 1

INFORMATION CURRENT AS OF: August 2005

STATUS/ACTION:

☐ Species assessment - determined species did not meet the definition of endangered or threatened under the Act and, therefore, was not elevated to Candidate status

☐ New candidate

☒ Continuing candidate

☐ Non-petitioned

☒ Petitioned - Date petition received: May 11, 2004

☐ 90-day positive - FR date:

☒ 12-month warranted but precluded - FR date: May 11, 2005

☐ Did the petition request a reclassification of a listed species?

FOR PETITIONED CANDIDATE SPECIES:

a. Is listing warranted (if yes, see summary of threats below)? yes

b. To date, has publication of a proposal to list been precluded by other higher priority listing actions? yes

c. If the answer to a. and b. is "yes", provide an explanation of why the action is precluded. We find that the immediate issuance of a proposed rule and timely promulgation of a final rule for this species has been, for the preceding 12 months, and continues to be, precluded by higher priority listing actions. During the past 12 months, most of our national listing budget has been consumed by work on various listing actions to comply with court orders and court-approved settlement agreements, meeting statutory deadlines for petition findings or listing determinations, emergency listing evaluations and determinations and essential litigation-related, administrative, and program management tasks. We will continue to monitor the status of this species as new information becomes available. This review will determine if a change in status is warranted, including the need to make prompt use of emergency listing procedures. For information on listing actions taken over the past 12 months, see the discussion of "Progress on Revising the Lists," in the current CNOR which can be viewed on our Internet website (<http://endangered.fws.gov>).

☐ Listing priority change

Former LP: ☐

New LP: ☐

Date when the species first became a Candidate (as currently defined): 1999

☐ Candidate removal: Former LP: ☐

☐ A – Taxon is more abundant or widespread than previously believed or not subject to

the degree of threats sufficient to warrant issuance of a proposed listing or continuance of candidate status.

- ___ U – Taxon not subject to the degree of threats sufficient to warrant issuance of a proposed listing or continuance of candidate status due, in part or totally, to conservation efforts that remove or reduce the threats to the species.
- ___ F – Range is no longer a U.S. territory.
- ___ I – Insufficient information exists on biological vulnerability and threats to support listing.
- ___ M – Taxon mistakenly included in past notice of review.
- ___ N – Taxon does not meet the Act’s definition of “species.”
- ___ X – Taxon believed to be extinct.

ANIMAL/PLANT GROUP AND FAMILY: Flowering plants, Loganiaceae (Logania family)

HISTORICAL STATES/TERRITORIES/COUNTRIES OF OCCURRENCE: Hawaii, island of Kauai

CURRENT STATES/ COUNTIES/TERRITORIES/COUNTRIES OF OCCURRENCE: Hawaii, island of Kauai

LAND OWNERSHIP: State lands.

LEAD REGION CONTACT: Paul Phifer, 503-872-2823, paul_phifer@fws.gov

LEAD FIELD OFFICE CONTACT: Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, Christa Russell, 808-792-9400, christa_russell@fws.gov

BIOLOGICAL INFORMATION:

Species Description *Labordia helleri* is a shrub 2 to 4.5 meters (m) (6.6 to 15 feet (ft)) tall, sometimes climbing, with cylindrical and glabrous stems. Leaves are membranous, oblanceolate to elliptic, 5 to 14 centimeters (cm) (2 to 5.5 inches (in)) long, 1.7 to 4 cm (0.7 to 1.6 in) wide, with the upper surface veins scarcely impressed, and both surfaces glabrous. Flowers, 3 to 9 or more, in pendulous or erect, compound, paniculate cymes. The corolla is white or pale greenish yellow, 9 to 11 millimeters (mm) (0.35 to 0.4 in) long, with a narrowly urn-shaped tube. Capsules are whitish green, lanceoloid to ovoid, and 9 to 20 mm (0.35 to 0.8 in) long (Wagner *et al.* 1999a).

Taxonomy *Labordia helleri* was described by Sherff. This species is recognized as a distinct taxon in Wagner *et al.* (1999a) and Wagner and Herbst (2003), the most recently accepted Hawaiian plant taxonomy.

Habitat *Labordia helleri* is found in diverse mesic forest and mesic valleys at elevations between 240 and 1,190 m (790 and 3,900 ft) (Wagner *et al.* 1999a).

Historical and Current Range/Current Status This species is known from eight or more

populations totaling 500 individuals from Makaha to Honopu of the island of Kauai (David Lorence and Ken Wood, National Tropical Botanical Garden, pers. comm. 1995; K. Wood, pers. comm. 2004). While we do not know the long-term trends of this species due to lack of historical data, it is reasonable to assume the populations have continued to decline, since not all of the threats are being managed throughout all of its range.

THREATS:

A. The present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range.

This species is threatened by feral goats and mule deer that degrade and destroy habitat (D. Lorence and K. Wood, pers. comm. 1995). The goat (*Capra hircus*), a species originally native to the Middle East and India, was successfully introduced to the Hawaiian Islands in 1792. Currently, populations exist on Kauai, Oahu, Maui, and Hawaii. On Kauai, feral goats have been present in drier, more rugged areas since the 1820s and they still occur in Waimea Canyon and along the Na Pali Coast, as well as in the drier perimeter of Alakai Swamp and even in its wetter areas during periods with low rainfall. This species is vulnerable to the long-term, indirect effects of goats, such as large-scale erosion. The habitat of the plant was damaged in the past by goats, and these effects are still apparent in the form of alien vegetation and erosion (Clarke and Cuddihy 1980; van Riper and van Riper 1982; Scott *et al.* 1986; Tomich 1986; Culliney 1988; Cuddihy and Stone 1990). No known conservation measures have been taken to date to address this threat.

Mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), native from western North America to central Mexico, were brought to Kauai from Oregon in the 1960s for game hunting and have not been introduced to any other Hawaiian island. Mule deer were introduced, in part, to provide another animal for hunting, since the State had planned to reduce the number of goats on Kauai because they were so destructive to the landscape (Kramer 1971). About 400 animals are known in and near Waimea Canyon, with some invasion into Alakai Swamp in drier periods. Mule deer trample native vegetation and cause erosion by creating trails and removing vegetation (Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources 1985; Tomich 1986; Cuddihy and Stone 1990). No known conservation measures have been taken to date to address this threat.

B. Overutilization for commercial, recreational, scientific, or educational purposes.

None known.

C. Disease or predation.

Goats and deer may eat leaves and other parts of this species (D. Lorence and K. Wood, pers. comm. 1995). Goats and deer are managed in Hawaii as game animals, but many herds populate inaccessible areas where hunting is difficult, if not impossible, and therefore has little effect on their numbers (Hawaii Heritage Program 1990). Goat and deer hunting is allowed year-round or during certain months, depending on the area (Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources n.d.-a, n.d.-b, n.d.-c, n.d.-d). Goats browse on introduced grasses and native plants, especially in drier and more open ecosystems. Feral goats eat native vegetation, trample roots and seedlings, cause erosion, and promote the invasion of alien plants. They are able to forage in extremely rugged terrain and have a high reproductive capacity (Clarke and Cuddihy 1980; van Riper and van Riper 1982; Scott *et al.* 1986; Tomich 1986; Culliney 1988; Cuddihy and Stone

1990). Mule deer are reported to eat native species such as *Acacia koa* (koa) and *Coprosma* sp. (pilo) (Tomich 1986). No known conservation measures have been taken to date to address this threat.

D. The inadequacy of existing regulatory mechanisms.

Hunting of goats is allowed on all islands either year-round or during certain months, depending on the area (Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources n.d.-a, n.d.-b, n.d.-c). Deer hunting on Kauai is allowed for approximately one month of the year. In addition, unless permitted, female deer may not be hunted or killed and there are some hunting restrictions for young male deer (Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources n.d.-d). Public hunting does not adequately control the number of ungulates to eliminate this threat to native plant species. No other known conservation measures have been taken to date to address this threat.

E. Other natural or manmade factors affecting its continued existence.

Several alien plant species threaten this species (D. Lorence and K. Wood, pers. comms. 1995). The original native flora of Hawaii consisted of about 1,400 species, nearly 90 percent of which were endemic. Of the total native and naturalized Hawaiian flora of 1,817 taxa, 47 percent were introduced from other parts of the world, and nearly 100 species have become pests (Smith 1985; Wagner *et al.* 1999a). Several studies (Cuddihy and Stone 1990; Wood and Perlman 1997; Robichaux *et al.* 1998) indicate nonnative plant species may outcompete native plants similar to *Labordia helleri*. Competition may be for space, light, water, or nutrients, or there may be a chemical inhibition of other plants (Smith 1985; Cuddihy and Stone 1990). In addition, nonnative pest plants found in habitat similar to that of this species have been shown to make the habitat less suitable for native species (Smathers and Gardner 1978; Smith 1985; Loope and Medeiros 1992; Medeiros *et al.* 1992; Ellshoff *et al.* 1995; Meyer and Florence 1996; Medeiros *et al.* 1997; Loope *et al.* 2004). In particular, alien pest plant species modify habitat by modifying availability of light, altering soil-water regimes, modifying nutrient cycling, or altering fire characteristics of native plant communities (Smith 1985; Cuddihy and Stone 1990; Vitousek *et al.* 1987). Because of demonstrated habitat modification and resource competition by nonnative plant species in habitat similar to habitat of *Labordia helleri*, the Service believes nonnative plant species are a threat to *Labordia helleri*. The remaining unmanaged populations of *Labordia helleri* are still impacted by this threat.

CONSERVATION MEASURES PLANNED OR IMPLEMENTED

None known.

SUMMARY OF THREATS:

The major threats to this species include goats and deer that directly prey upon, degrade and destroy habitat, and by nonnative plants that outcompete and displace it, which are believed to be a major cause of the decline of this species throughout its range. No conservation efforts have been initiated to date.

LISTING PRIORITY

THREAT	
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Magnitude	Immediacy	Taxonomy	Priority
High	Imminent	Monotypic genus	1
		Species	2*
	Non-imminent	Subspecies/population	3
		Monotypic genus	4
		Species	5
		Subspecies/population	6
Moderate to Low	Imminent	Monotypic genus	7
		Species	8
		Subspecies/population	9
	Non-imminent	Monotypic genus	10
		Species	11
		Subspecies/population	12

Rationale for listing priority number:

Magnitude:

This species is highly threatened by goats and deer that directly prey upon it, degrade and destroy habitat, and by nonnative plants that outcompete and displace it. Threats to diverse mesic forest habitat of *Labordia helleri* and to individuals of this species occur throughout its range, and are expected to continue or increase without control or eradication. No conservation efforts have been initiated to date.

Imminence:

Threats to *Labordia helleri* from goats, deer, and nonnative plants are imminent because they are ongoing.

Yes Have you promptly reviewed all of the information received regarding the species for the purpose of determining whether emergency listing is needed?

Is Emergency Listing Warranted?

No. The species does not appear to be appropriate for emergency listing at this time because the immediacy of the threats is not so great as to imperil a significant proportion of the taxon within the time frame of the routine listing process. If it becomes apparent that the routine listing process is not sufficient to prevent large losses that may result in this species' extinction, then the emergency rule process for this species will be initiated. We will continue to monitor the status of *Labordia helleri* as new information becomes available. This review will determine if a

change in status is warranted, including the need to make prompt use of emergency listing procedures.

DESCRIPTION OF MONITORING:

Much of the information in this form is based on the results of a meeting of 20 botanical experts held by the Center for Plant Conservation in December of 1995, and was updated by personal communication with David Lorence and Ken Wood of National Tropical Botanical Garden in 1995. We have incorporated additional information on this species from our files and the most recent supplement to the *Manual of the Flowering Plants of Hawaii* (Wagner and Herbst 2003). In 2004, the Pacific Islands office contacted the following species experts: Bob Hobdy, retired from Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife; Joel Lau, Hawaii Natural Heritage Program; Art Medeiros, U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Discipline; Hank Oppenheimer, resource manager for Maui Land and Pineapple Company; and Steve Perlman and Ken Wood, National Tropical Botanical Garden. New information on status and range was provided by Ken Wood in 2004. In 2005 we contacted the species experts listed below, but received no new information on this taxon.

The Hawaii Natural Heritage Program identified this species as critically imperiled (Hawaii Natural Heritage Program Database 2004). Based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Red Plant Data Book rarity categories, this species is recognized as Rare (could be considered at risk) by Wagner *et al.* (1999b).

Species experts were contacted but did not provide new information this year, no new literature was found, and no known entities are studying this species. However, it is highly likely that the previously reported threats continue to impact the species at the same or an increased level.

COORDINATION WITH STATES:

In October 2004 we provided the Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife with copies of our most recent candidate assessments for their review and comment. Vickie Caraway, the State botanist, reviewed the information for this species and provided no additional information or corrections (V. Caraway, pers. comm. 2005).

LITERATURE CITED

List all experts contacted:

Name	Date	Place of Employment
1. Joel Lau	June 28, 2005	Hawaii Natural Heritage Program
2. Art Medeiros	June 28, 2005	U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Discipline
3. Jim Jacobi	June 28, 2005	U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Discipline
4. Rick Warshauer	June 28, 2005	U.S.G.S. Biological Resources Discipline
5. Hank Oppenheimer	June 28, 2005	Maui Land and Pineapple Company
6. Kapua Kawelo	June 28, 2005	U.S. Army
7. Dave Lorence	June 28, 2005	National Tropical Botanical Garden
8. Steve Perlman	March 29, 2005	National Tropical Botanical Garden
9. Ken Wood	August 2, 2005	National Tropical Botanical Garden
10. Marie Brueggemann	July 13, 2005	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

List all databases searched:

Name	Date
1. Hawaii Natural Heritage Program	2004

Other resources utilized:

Center for Biological Diversity, Dr. Jane Goodall, Dr. E.O. Wilson, Dr. Paul Ehrlich, Dr. John Terborgh, Dr. Niles Eldridge, Dr. Thomas Eisner, Dr. Robert Hass, Barbara Kingsolver, Charles Bowden, Martin Sheen, the Xerces Society, and the Biodiversity Conservation Alliance. 2004. Hawaiian Plants: petitions to list as federally endangered species. May 4, 2004.

Clarke, G., and L.W. Cuddihy. 1980. A botanical reconnaissance of the Na Pali coast trail: Kee Beach to Kalalau Valley (April 9-11, 1980). Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Hilo, Hawaii.

Corn, C.A., G. Clarke, L. Cuddihy, and L. Yoshida. 1979. A botanical reconnaissance of Kalalau, Honopu, Awaawapuhi, Nualolo and Milolii Valleys and shorelines—Na Pali, Kauai. Unpublished report. Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Endangered Species Program, Honolulu. 14 pp.

Cuddihy, L.W., and C.P. Stone. 1990. Alteration of native Hawaiian vegetation; effects of humans, their activities and introductions. Coop. Natl. Park Resources Stud. Unit, Hawaii. 138 pp.

Culliney, J.L. 1988. Islands in a Far Sea; Nature and Man in Hawaii. Sierra Club Books, San Francisco. 410 pp.

Ellshoff, Z.E., D.E. Gardner, C. Wikler, and C.W. Smith. 1995. Annotated bibliography of the genus *Psidium*, with emphasis on *P. cattleianum* (strawberry guava) and *P. guajava* (common guava), forest weeds in Hawai'i. Cooperative National Park Resources Studies Unit, University of Hawaii. Technical Report 95.

Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources. N.d.-a. Summary of Title 13, Chapter 123, Game mammal hunting rules, island of Oahu. Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Honolulu. 2 pp.

Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources. N.d.-b. Summary of Title 13, Chapter 123, Game mammal hunting rules, island of Molokai. Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Honolulu. 2 pp.

Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources. N.d.-c. Summary of Title 13, Chapter 123, Game mammal hunting rules, island of Maui. Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Honolulu. 2 pp.

Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources. N.d.-d. Summary of Title 13, Chapter 123, Game mammal hunting rules, island of Kauai. Division of Forestry and Wildlife, Honolulu.

Hawaii Heritage Program, The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii. 1990. Management recommendations for Na Pali Coast State Park, island of Kauai. Unpublished report prepared for Hawaii, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of State Parks, Honolulu. 18 pp.

Loope, L.L. and A.C. Medeiros. 1992. A new and invasive grass on Maui. Newsletter of the

- Hawaiian Botanical Society 31: 7-8.
- Loope, L., F. Starr and K. Starr. 2004. Management and research for protecting endangered Hawaiian plant species from displacement by invasive plants on Maui, Hawaii. *Weed Technology* 18: 1472-1474.
- Medeiros, A.C., L.L. Loope, P. Conant and S. McElvaney. 1997. Status, ecology, and management of the invasive plant, *Miconia calvescens* DC (Melastomataceae) in the Hawaiian Islands. *Bishop Mus. Occas. Pap.* 48: 23-36.
- Medeiros, A.C., L.L. Loope, T. Flynn, S.J. Anderson, L.W. Cuddihy, and K.A. Wilson. 1992. Notes on the status of an invasive Australian tree fern (*Cyathea cooperi*) in Hawaiian rain forests. *American Fern Journal* 82: 27-33.
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- Scott, J.M., S. Mountainspring, F.L. Ramsey, and C.B. Kepler. 1986. Forest bird communities of the Hawaiian Islands: Their dynamics, ecology, and conservation. *Studies in Avian Biology* 9: 1-429. Cooper Ornithological Society, Los Angeles.
- Smathers, G.A. and D.E. Gardner. 1978. Stand analysis of an invading firetree (*Myrica faya* Aiton) population, Hawai'i. *Proceeding of the Second Conference on Natural Science, Hawaii Volcanoes National Park*, pp. 274-288.
- Smith, C.W. 1985. Impact of alien plants on Hawai'i's native biota: *in* Stone, C.P., and J.M. Scott (eds.), *Hawai'i's Terrestrial Ecosystems: Preservation and Management*. Coop. Natl. Park Resources Stud. Unit, Univ. Hawaii, Honolulu, pp. 180-250.
- Stone, C.P. 1985. Alien animals in Hawai'i's native ecosystems: toward controlling the adverse effects of introduced vertebrates: *in* Stone, C.P., and J.M. Scott (eds.), *Hawai'i's Terrestrial Ecosystems: Preservation and Management*. Coop. Natl. Park Resources Stud. Unit, Univ. Hawaii, Honolulu, pp. 251-297.
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- van Riper, S.G., and C. van Riper III. 1982. A field guide to the mammals in Hawaii. The Oriental Publishing Company, Honolulu. 68 pp.
- Vitousek, P.M., C.M. D'Antonio, L.L. Loope, M. Rejnaneck, and R. Westerbrooks. 1997. Introduced species: a significant component of human-caused global change. *New Zealand Journal of Ecology* 21(1): 1-16.
- Wagner, W.L., D.R. Herbst, and S.H. Sohmer. 1999a. Manual of the Flowering Plants of Hawai'i, Bishop Mus. Spec. Publ. 97: 1-1918. University of Hawaii Press and Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu.
- Wagner, W.L., M.M. Bruegmann, and J.Q.C. Lau. 1999b. Hawaiian vascular plants at risk: 1999. *Bishop Mus. Occas. Pap.* 60: 1-58.
- Wagner, W.L. and D.R. Herbst. 2003. Electronic supplement to the manual of flowering plants of Hawai'i, version 3.1. December 12, 2003. Available from the Internet. URL: <http://rathbun.si.edu/botany/pacificislandbiodiversity/hawaiianflora/supplement.htm>.
- Wenkam, R. 1969. Kauai and the Park Country of Hawaii. Sierra Club, San Francisco. 160 pp.
- Wood, K.R. and S. Perlman. 1997. Maui 14 plant survey final report. Submitted by National Tropical Botanical Garden, October, 1997.

APPROVAL/CONCURRENCE: Lead Regions must obtain written concurrence from all other Regions within the range of the species before recommending changes to the candidate list, including listing priority changes; the Regional Director must approve all such recommendations. The Director must concur on all 12-month petition findings, additions of species to the candidate list, removal of candidate species, and listing priority changes.

Approve: **Acting** David W. Winkler 11/10/05
Regional Director, Fish and Wildlife Service Date

Marshall P. Jones

Concur: _____ August 23, 2006
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service Date

Do not concur: _____
Director, Fish and Wildlife Service Date

Date of annual review: September 20, 2005
Conducted by: Marie M. Bruegmann, Pacific Islands FWO
Plant Recovery Coordinator

Comments:
PIFWO Review

Reviewed by: Christa Russell Date: September 23, 2005
Plant Conservation Program Leader

Gina Shultz Date: October 13, 2005
Assistant Field Supervisor,
Endangered Species

Patrick Leonard Date: October 13, 2005
Field Supervisor